

State of Vermont
Executive Department
A Proclamation

WHEREAS, "Co-op Month" officially became a national event in 1964, being celebrated each October in the Unites States of America; and

WHEREAS, co-operatives are businesses that are locally owned by everyday people who join together to solve a problem, meet a need or achieve shared goals; and

WHEREAS, co-operatives are recognized in the laws and statutes of the State of Vermont as member-owned, democratically controlled enterprises, giving people a real stake in their communities and their economic destiny; and

WHEREAS, co-operatives meet a wide range of essential needs including accessing healthy food, employment, marketing and purchasing farm products, providing financial services (credit unions), delivering electric, and housing, and insurance; and

WHEREAS, member-owners in our state depend on approximately 130 co-operatives to meet a wide variety of needs, goals and aspirations; and

WHEREAS, co-operatives play a major role in the economy of the State of Vermont, annually recording an estimated \$1 billion in revenue; and

WHEREAS, the co-operative philosophy of working together for the common good has promoted community well-being and improved the quality of life for the citizens of the State of Vermont; and

WHEREAS, the theme established by the National Co-operative Business Association for 2016 is "Co-operatives Build," emphasizing the way co-operative enterprises build their communities, grow jobs, and root economic infrastructure in our region;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Peter Shumlin, Governor, do hereby proclaim October 22, 2016 as

CO-OPERATIVE MONTH

in Vermont, and recognize co-operatives and their members for the role they play
in building our community and serving our citizens.

Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of Vermont
This 27th day of October, A.D. 2016.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Peter Shumlin", written over a horizontal line.

Peter Shumlin
Governor